

09/11/00 JCS65 U.S. PTO

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JCS64 U.S. PTO  
09/659453  
09/11/00

September 11, 2000

BOX PATENT APPLICATION  
Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Re: Application of Bernhard KAISER

**A PROCESS FOR SIGNALLING COST INFORMATION UPON CONNECTION  
ESTABLISHMENT AND A TARIFF SERVER THEREFOR**  
Our Ref. Q60663

Dear Sir:

Attached hereto is the application identified above including 7 sheets of the specification, claims and abstract, 1 sheet of informal drawing, executed Assignment and PTO 1595 form, and executed Declaration and Power of Attorney. Also enclosed is the Information Disclosure Statement.

Please see attached preliminary amendment before calculating Government filing fee.

The Government filing fee is calculated as follows:

Total claims	<u>6</u>	-	20	=	<u>0</u>	x	\$18.00	=	<u>\$0.00</u>
Independent claims	<u>2</u>	-	3	=	<u>0</u>	x	\$78.00	=	<u>\$0.00</u>
Base Fee									<u>\$690.00</u>

<b>TOTAL FILING FEE</b>	<b>\$690.00</b>
Recordation of Assignment	\$40.00
<b>TOTAL FEE</b>	<b><u>\$730.00</u></b>

Checks for the statutory filing fee of \$690.00 and Assignment recordation fee of \$40.00 are attached. You are also directed and authorized to charge or credit any difference or overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 and any petitions for extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 which may be required during the entire pendency of the application to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. A duplicate copy of this transmittal letter is attached.

Priority is claimed from October 2, 1999 based on German Application No. 19947535.0. The priority document is enclosed herewith.

Respectfully submitted,  
SUGHRUE, MION, ZINN,  
MACPEAK & SEAS, PLLC  
Attorneys for Applicant

By: David J. Cushing  
David J. Cushing  
Registration No. 28,703

**PATENT APPLICATION**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re application of

Bernhard KAISER

Attorney Docket Q60663

Appln. No.: Not yet assigned

Group Art Unit: Not yet assigned

Filed: September 11, 2000

Examiner: Not yet assigned

For: A PROCESS FOR SIGNALLING COST INFORMATION UPON CONNECTION  
ESTABLISHMENT AND A TARIFF SERVER THEREFOR

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

Page 1, after the title, insert the heading --**Background of the Invention**--.

Page 2, line 34, insert the heading --**Summary of the Invention**--.

Page 3, lines 4-11 delete in their entirety and insert:

--This object is achieved in accordance with the invention by a process for signaling cost information upon a connection in a telecommunications network information in a telecommunications network, the process comprising the steps of: the subscriber's data terminal establishing a connection to an exchange; a call handling function of the exchange making a tariff request to a tariff server; the tariff server sending a tariff response for the requested connection to the call handling function of the exchange; the call handling function forwarding the tariff response to a CDR generating function in the exchange; the CDR generating function forwarding cost information to the cost communication function of the exchange; and the cost

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT  
Attorney Docket Q60663

communication function communicating the cost information to the subscriber's data terminal.

The object of the invention is further achieved by a tariff server with connections to the exchange, to a bill server, to a service operator, and to a data terminal of subscribers, and wherein the tariff server has a charging rate function which is connected to a subscriber database.

The process according to the invention and tariff server according to the invention have the particular advantage that the cost information is made available to the subscriber directly before and during a connection.--

line 12, insert the heading --**Brief Description of the Drawings**--.

line 16, insert the heading --**Detailed Description of the Invention**--.

**IN THE ABSTRACT:**

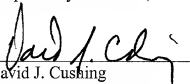
After the heading, delete the title in its entirety.

After the abstract, delete "(Figure)".

**REMARKS**

Entry and consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

  
David J. Cushing  
Registration No. 28,703

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Date: September 11, 2000

**A Process for Signalling Cost Information upon  
Connection Establishment and a Tariff Server Therefor**

The invention is based on a process for signalling cost information upon connection establishment in a telecommunications network and to a tariff server therefor according to the preambles of the independent claims.

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So-called call handling in the exchange is known. The call handling process is very limited as it does not take the individual subscribers into account but merely determines the tariff rate globally according to criteria relating to time, date, distance and service used. However, this process permits the display of the costs on a charge meter during the telephone connection.

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Superimposed on the conventional communications network for circuit-switched connections is a so-called intelligent network (IN) with the aid of which, over and beyond the pure connection establishment, a number of other services can be provided. To use a specific service of this intelligent network, it is firstly necessary to dial a service code. The service code is necessary to reach a so-called service switching point (SSP) which switches the required service on the basis of the service code as so-called service switching function (SSF). For this purpose, the SSP evaluates the transmitted service code and, via a so-called service transfer point (STP), then approaches a service control computer, the so-called service control point (SCP) which then controls the provision of the requested service. The SSP is the interface between the conventional communications network and the intelligent network. STP and SCP are components of the intelligent network. A general description of an intelligent network

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is to be found in the book "Intelligente Netze"  
(Intelligent Networks) by G. Siegmund, 1999, p. 31 ff.

A signalling network, which at the present time normally  
5 operates using Signalling System No. 7 of ITU-T, is also  
linked to or superimposed upon the conventional  
communication network. This signalling system and the  
associated signalling network are generally known under the  
abbreviation #7. This signalling system is also used in  
10 the intelligent network. The above mentioned service  
transfer point (STP) of the intelligent network here is  
identical to the identically abbreviated signalling  
transfer point (STP) of the signalling network #7. An  
advantage of the possible services in an intelligent  
15 network is the provision of individual bills relating to  
the costs of the connections. At the end of an IN  
connection, a call record containing all the important data  
for this call is created by the SSP and STP. These records  
are sent to the service management point (SMP), which, in  
20 addition to the statistics function, determines the charge  
information therefrom. In the SMP the reported results of  
the call or service can be linked with the charge metering  
by the service provider in order to produce a billing  
ticket therefrom.

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The structure of the specific charge metering for different  
telephone services constitutes a key point for the network  
operators. The cost structures for connections are a  
fundamental means of distinguishing and differentiating  
30 between the various service providers. The currently  
existing methods of determining and displaying costs are  
unsatisfactory. They cannot provide the relevant customer  
with information until after a connection has ended.

35 Therefore the object of the present invention is to propose  
a process which enables the subscriber in a

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telecommunications network to be sent information about costs before and during a connection.

This object is achieved in accordance with the invention by  
5 a process for signalling cost information upon a connection  
in a telecommunications network according to the theory of  
Claim 1 and by a tariff server according to Claim 5. The  
process according to the invention and tariff server  
according to the invention have the particular advantage  
10 that the cost information is made available to the  
subscriber directly before and during a connection.

Further advantageous developments of the invention are  
disclosed in detail in the sub-claims and in the  
15 description.

The sole Figure illustrates the construction of a network  
according to the invention. Figure 1 shows a data terminal  
1 from which connections are made to an exchange 2. The  
20 exchange 2 contains functions of the SSP and of the SCP.  
The exchange 2 has a call handling function 6 and a CDR  
(call detail records)-generating function 7 as well as a  
cost communication function 8. The exchange 2 is connected  
to a service management point (SMP) 3. A tariff server 4  
25 and a bill server 5 are arranged in the service management  
point 3. The service management point (SMP) is also  
connected to external access units 9.

Upon a connection establishment between the data terminal 1  
30 of the subscriber and the exchange 2, the call handling  
function 6 receives the requested connection data. The  
call handling function makes an enquiry to the tariff  
server 4 about the tariff for the desired connection in a  
tariff enquiry 10. In the tariff server the charging rate  
35 determination function 13 requests the desired tariff  
information in a database 14. Information about the

subscriber and the subscriber's specific tariff conditions are stored in this database. Via the charging rate determination function 13 of the tariff server 4 the tariff server answers the enquiry from the call handling function 6 with a tariff response 11. The call handling function 6 forwards the tariff response 11 to the CDR generator 7 and the cost communication function 8 of the exchange 2. This cost communication function 8 sends the information directly to the subscriber's data terminal 1 via a signalling channel 15. In this way the tariff for the desired connection is communicated to the subscriber actually prior to the connection establishment. The information is also updated during an existing connection.

The CDR generator 7 determines the units already consumed in the current connection. The CDR generator 7 is also connected to a bill server 5. In this bill server 5 the CDR units are collected, processed on the basis of the current tariff, and possibly intermediately stored. The information relating to the accrued units is forwarded to the tariff server 4 via a so-called hot billing channel 12.

This information ensures that the current costs are available to the subscriber in the database. The current costs are then forwarded to the exchanges and to the subscriber by means of the tariff enquiry and tariff response.

The tariff server 4 also has various access facilities 9. Via a service centre 9 the service provider can access the tariff server 4 and adapt the current subscribers and their current tariffs. An access facility for a personal enquiry about current personal tariffs is also available to the subscriber in the telecommunications network. This current enquiry can be made using the data terminal or via the internet using a PC.

**Claims**

1. A process for signalling cost information in a telecommunications network comprising the steps:

5       - the subscriber's data terminal (1) establishes a connection to an exchange (2),

      - the exchange has a call handling function (6) which makes a tariff request (10) to a tariff server (4),

10       - the tariff server sends a tariff response (11) for the requested connection to the call handling function (6) of the exchange (2),

15       - the call handling function (6) forwards the tariff response (11) to a CDR generating function (7) in the exchange,

20       - the CDR generating function (7) forwards cost information to the cost communication function (8) of the exchange (2),

      - the cost communication function (8) communicates the cost information to the subscriber's data terminal.

25 2. A process for signalling cost information according to Claim 1, characterised in that the tariff server has access to a subscriber database containing current tariff data.

30 3. A process for signalling cost information according to Claim 1, characterised in that the current costs are updated upon the connection establishment and/or during

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the existing connection.

4. A process for signalling cost information according to Claim 1, characterised in that the information of the  
5 tariff server (4) is updated with the aid of a bill server (5).

5. A tariff server (4) with connections to the exchange (2)  
10 - to a bill server (5)  
- to a service operator (9)  
15 - to a data terminal (9) of subscribers  
- wherein the tariff server (4) has a charging rate function (13) which is connected to a subscriber database (14).

20 6. A tariff server (6) according to Claim 5,  
characterised in that the subscriber database (14) is adapted to the current cost situation by current data of the bill server (6).

**Abstract****A Process for Signalling Cost Information upon  
Connection Establishment and a Tariff Server Therefor**

COPIED FROM ORIGINAL

The invention is a process for signalling cost information in a telecommunications network comprising the steps: the subscriber's data terminal (1) establishes a connection to an exchange (2), the exchange has a call handling function (6) which makes a tariff enquiry (10) to a tariff server (4), the tariff server sends a tariff response (11) for the requested connection to the call handling function (6) of the exchange (2), the call handling function (6) forwards the tariff response (11) to a CDR generating function (7) in the exchange, the CDR generating function (7) forwards cost information to the cost communication function (8) of the exchange (2), the cost communication function (8) communicates the cost information to the subscriber's data terminal.

(Figure)

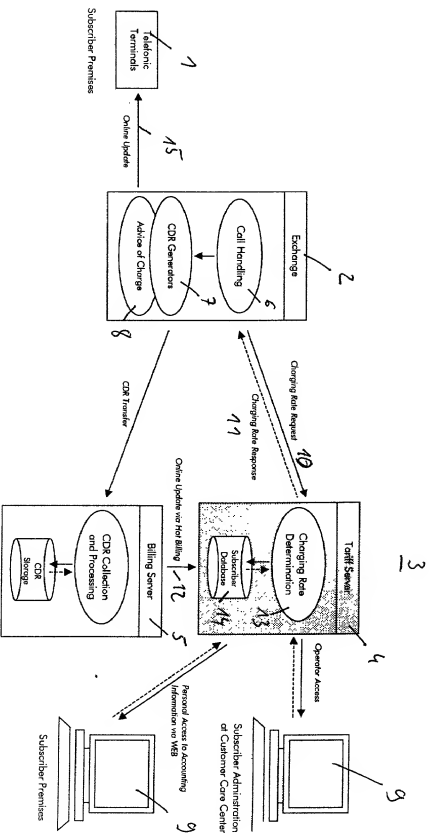


Figure: System Configuration with Tariff Server

**DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY**

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that my residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name: that I verily believe I am an original, first and joint inventor, together with the other inventors listed below, of the subject matter claimed and for which a patent is sought in the application entitled: **A Process for Signalling Cost**

**Information upon Connection Establishment and a Tariff Server Therefor**

which application is:

☐ the attached application  
(for original application)



filed

Application Serial No:

, and amended on

(for declaration not accompanying application)

that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the specification of the above-identified application, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above; that I acknowledge my duty to disclose information of which I am aware which is material to the patentability of this application under 37 C.F.R. 1.56, that I hereby claim priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code §119, §172 or §365 of any provisional application or foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified on said list any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate on this invention having a filing date before that of any foreign application on which priority is claimed:

Application Number  
199 47 535.0

Country  
Germany

Filing Date  
October 02, 1999

Priority Claimed  
yes

I hereby claim the benefit of Title 35, United States Code §120 of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in a listed prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, §112, I acknowledge my duty to disclose any information material to the patentability of this application under 37 C.F.R. 1.56 which occurred between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

Application Serial No.

Filing Date

Status

I hereby appoint John H. Mion, Reg. No. 18,879; Thomas J. Macpeak, Reg. No. 19,292; Robert J. Seas, Jr., Reg. No. 21,092; Darryl Mexic, Reg. No. 23,063; Robert V. Sloan, Reg. No. 22,775; Peter D. Olexy, Reg. No. 24,513; J. Frank Osha, Reg. No. 24,625; Waddell A. Biggart, Reg. No. 24,861; Louis Gubinsky, Reg. No. 24,835; Neil B. Siegel, Reg. No. 25,200; David J. Cushing, Reg. No. 28,703; John R. Inge, Reg. No. 26,916; Joseph J. Ruch, Jr., Reg. No. 26,577; Sheldon I. Landsman, Reg. No. 25,430; Richard C. Turner, Reg. No. 29,710; Howard L. Bernstein, Reg. No. 25,665; Alan J. Kasper, Reg. No. 25,426; Kenneth J. Burchfiel, Reg. No. 31,333; Gordon Kit, Reg. No. 30,764; Susan J. Mack, Reg. No. 30,951; Frank L. Bernstein, Reg. No. 31,484; Mark Boland, Reg. No. 32,197; William H. Mandir, Reg. No. 32,156; Scott M. Daniels, Reg. No. 32,562; Brian W. Hannon, Reg. No. 32,778; Abraham J. Rosner, Reg. No. 33,276; Bruce E. Kramer, Reg. No. 33,725; Paul F. Neils, Reg. No. 33,102; Brett S. Sylvester, Reg. No. 32,765; and Robert M. Masters, Reg. No. 35,603, my attorneys to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith, and request that all correspondence about the application be addressed to **SUGHRUE, MION, ZINN, MACPEAK & SEAS, PLLC**, 2100 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20037-3213.

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.

Date August 29, 2000

First Inventor

Bernhard

Middle Initial

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Residence Vaihingen / Enz  
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